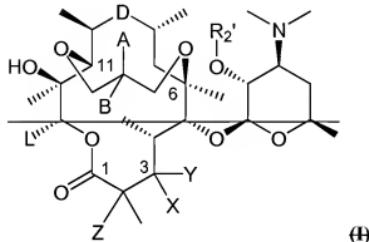


Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the Abstract in the instant specification with the following:

The present invention is directed to compounds **Compounds** of Formula I, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts, esters, and **prodrugs** **esters** thereof.



are disclosed, wherein A, B, D, L, X, Y, Z and R₂' are described herein. The compounds of the invention exhibit antibacterial properties and. The compounds of Formula I can be employed to treat or prevent bacterial infections as compounds per se or in the form of pharmaceutically acceptable salts, esters, or prodrugs. The compounds of the invention and their salts, esters, and prodrugs can also be employed as ingredients in pharmaceutical compositions, optionally in combination with other antibacterial agents, for the treatment of bacterial infections. Processes for making the compounds are also disclosed.

